

REMARKS

Claims 15-29 are pending. In response to the amendment filed 13 August 2009, the rejections under Section 103 based in part on Muller in view of Gramckow have all been withdrawn. In the remarks accompanying that amendment the applicant urged withdrawal of the rejections in part because the Muller reference did not disclose determining a desired flatness of the strip via a *material flow model* ...

Furthermore, claim 15 as most recently examined has further distinguished over the prior art by requiring

controlling a roll stand of the mill train via a *strip shape model* providing a relationship between intrinsic flatness i_p and visible flatness v_p and that uses the desired and actual flatness values as inputs to reduce the difference between the actual flatness and the desired flatness of the metal strip.

Thus the method of independent claim 15 requires both a material flow model and a strip shape model. As further explained in the prior response, the Gramckow reference does not provide a strip shape model providing a relationship between intrinsic flatness i_p and visible flatness v_p . As noted at page 3 of the prior office action mailed 19 May 2009, the earlier rejection relied on the Gramckow reference (at col. 2, line 59 - col. 3, line 11) for using desired and actual flatness values as inputs to reduce a difference between actual and desired flatness, but *this is not the same as using a model to provide a relationship between intrinsic flatness and visible flatness*. In this regard, the term "strip shape model" is defined in the specification (paragraphs 00041 - 00051). The prior art Muller and Gramckow references do not make use of a strip shape model.

With the prior rejections having been withdrawn, the new and final office action presents new grounds of rejection which appear deficient for the very reasons applicant argued for withdrawal of the prior rejections. That is, independent claim 15 is now rejected over Guinsberg (U.S. 4,771,622) in view of Gramckow (U.S. 6,697,699) wherein the new prior art combination has the same deficiencies already noted with regard to the Gramckow reference. Applicant also urges that the rejection does not fully and clearly address every recitation in the claims. The

rejection does not find in the prior art a strip shape model providing a relationship between intrinsic flatness ip and visible flatness vp. At best, the new rejection can only rely on the Gramckow reference (at col. 2, line 59 - col. 3, line 11) for using desired and actual flatness values as inputs to reduce a difference between actual and desired flatness. *This is not the same as using a model to provide a relationship between intrinsic flatness and visible flatness.* Nor does the rejection identify a material flow model as required by claim 15.

In view of these distinctions, none of the claimed combinations can be obvious in view of the prior art. Furthermore, Claims 16-29 which depend from claim 15 are also patentable at least based on their dependence from claim 15 as well as based on their own merits. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the new rejections presented under Section 103 and allow the claims.

Conclusion

For the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that the new rejections set forth in the outstanding Office Action are inapplicable to the claims as examined. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner remove the rejections and timely pass the application to allowance. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address. Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this paper. The commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any appropriate fees due in connection with this paper or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 19-2179.

Respectfully submitted,

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